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Office of  
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# *insider*

A window to the Department for Workforce Investment. Office of Employment & Training

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Ronald J. Murphy  
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## Appointments made to Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

Governor Ernie Fletcher has appointed eight members to the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB). The 25-member board develops policies to help Kentuckians have the training, education and skills necessary to get and retain jobs.

“Kentucky’s economic success depends on our ability to compete in a global market that is constantly changing. KWIB provides the regional information and insight that we need to prepare Kentucky’s workforce for these challenges so that we can strengthen partnerships in the public and private sectors and move Kentucky forward,” said Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens. KWIB is in the Department for Workforce Investment, an agency of the Education Cabinet.

### Newly Appointed Members of KWIB

Sharon K. Bird, Hazard, is president of Bird Consulting in Richmond and represents the business sector. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky

George Burkley, Louisville, is president and CEO of DEYTA Factual Foresight in Louisville and represents the business sector. He is the new chairperson of the KWIB.

John Michael Cary, Louisville, is associated with the Boys Scouts of America and represents youth.

William M. Conder, Danville, is a graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., and represents the business sector. He is retired from the Dana Corporation.

Andrew Frauenhoffer, Frankfort, is the deputy commissioner for the Department for Workforce Investment. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical

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## **Snow Applauds New States Offering Health Coverage Tax Credit Plans for 2005**

(Excerpts FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, January 26, 2005 js-2209)

“WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Treasury Secretary John W. Snow applauded Governor Fletcher of Kentucky, Governor Blanco of Louisiana and Acting Governor Codey of New Jersey for implementing a state qualified health plan...”

“The plans went into effect January 1st, allowing citizens of these three states to take full advantage of the Health Coverage Tax Credit through approved health care plans.”

‘The HCTC will now bring affordable, quality health care to more hard working families in Kentucky, Louisiana and New Jersey,’ said Treasury Secretary John Snow. ‘The officials in these states have worked hard to ensure thousands of families will have the peace of mind that health care coverage brings.’

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Act President Bush signed into law in 2002 included the new Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). Recipients can receive the HCTC either in advance, to help pay qualified health plan premiums as they come due, or in a lump sum when they file their federal tax returns. The HCTC advance payments program began nationally in August 2003. This program provides an advanced payment of 65 percent of the premium cost for a qualified health plan for individuals and their families who are eligible to receive Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits or certain individuals who receive pension benefit payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).”

The plan will provide another health coverage option for eligible trade affected workers and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation recipients. The new plan is qualified under the federal Health

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### **Appointments made to Kentucky (continued)**

engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Southern Mississippi.

State Senator Vernie McGaha, Russell Springs, is a retired band director and elementary and middle school principal. He is a graduate of Campbellsville University and Western Kentucky University, where he earned master’s degree and Rank I degree. He represents the state legislature.

Russell B. Starkey, Paducah, is general manager of the United States Enrichment Corporation in Paducah. He represents business.

Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Frankfort, is the Governor’s representative on the board. He is a graduate of Harvard and the University of Kentucky.

For more information about KWIB, visit [www.kwib.ky.gov](http://www.kwib.ky.gov) or call 502-564-2919.



George Burkley was introduced as the new Kentucky Workforce Investment Board chairperson during the January 2005 meeting held in Frankfort, Ky. A native Kentuckian and University of Kentucky graduate, Burkley worked in the healthcare industry for 20 years before returning to Kentucky four years ago. He currently resides in Louisville, where he is president and CEO of DEYTA Factual Foresight, a performance assessment organization.

## Three OET offices hold Small Business Seminar

On Jan. 20, the Henderson, Madisonville and Owensboro offices joined forces to conduct a regional seminar on “Starting or Maintaining a Business.” The seminar emphasized providing information about government programs that are available to veterans. However, anyone with an interest in starting his/her own business was welcomed.



Pictured are speakers and OET Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) coordinators of the Small Business Seminar that was held at the Fine Arts Center, Henderson Community College. Left to right, Dr. Ruth Bunch, Kentucky Approving Agency for Veterans Education; Art Hayden, Henderson LVER; Debbie Brezindine, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Al Schippers, Owensboro LVER; Tommie Causey, U.S. Small Business Administration; Stan Hill, Madisonville LVER; and Diane Brenner, Fifth Third Bank. A speaker not pictured is Mickey Johnson from the Murray State University Business Liaison Office.

The seminar was publicized in newspapers and radio stations throughout the region. Over 50 participants came from 13 cities in Kentucky and two cities in Indiana. Students completing vocational training at the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy also attended the seminar.

## Regional Job Fair draws hundreds of job seekers

Approximately 500 employers and job seekers had the opportunity to connect at the Regional Job Fair held in January at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

Self-registration with OET was provided on-site. In addition, an employer seminar was held prior to the job fair to inform business representatives of the services available to them through their local one-stop system.



Working the Cumberland, Bluegrass, and Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Area (WIA) booths at the Regional Job Fair are, left to right, Kim Absher, OET, representing Cumberland WIA; and Lori Collins, Jennifer Compton, and Rebecca Dean, all with the Bluegrass WIA.

Shirlene Taylor, business liaison and career manager for the Cumberland WIA, said, “The fair had an excellent turnout and people were waiting at the door when it opened. Approximately 250 people registered in the first three hours.”

The regional fairs are sponsored by the Cumberland, Lincoln Trail, and Bluegrass workforce investment areas and career centers. The sponsors represent a 38-county area.

Additional regional job fairs are planned in the Lincoln Trail and Central Kentucky areas over the next few months.

## Kentucky Workforce Investment Board receives challenge

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), the leading policy board for the commonwealth's workforce development system, held its first meeting of 2005 in January at Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort.

The board's role is to develop, communicate and oversee the implementation of a strategic vision and plan for developing a world-class workforce in Kentucky.

Bill Sanders, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration representative from Washington D.C. and Dr. Helen Parker, U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration regional representative from Atlanta, spoke on the role of State Workforce Investment Boards and their importance in state government. They challenged the board members and other attendees to view economic development and workforce development as equal; however, with workforce development as the driver because of its emphasis on people.

Mike Switzer, Workforce Florida's vice-president for performance and programs, shared information about his state's programs. He noted the importance of identifying all participating agencies and partners and the multiple funding streams involved.

Franklin County Judge/Executive Teresa Barton administered the oath of office to seven new KWIB members who represent business, youth, state government, and the Governor's office. (See front page for related story).

Commissioner Laura E. Owens, Kentucky Department for Workforce Investment, thanked the KWIB members for their participation and encouraged them to coordinate the efforts of all partners to develop a strong workforce.

## Henderson OET continues course for job seekers

The Henderson OET office is continuing to provide a training course designed to serve persons seeking employment, first-time employees, unemployed, underemployed, disadvantaged, disabled, welfare recipients, older workers and individuals looking to upgrade their current skill levels.

By January 2005, the program had trained 102 individuals with a 93 percent placement rate. Skills covered during the four-week training program include basic computer skills, proper application completion, resume creation and use and interview skills.

To participate, individuals are required to submit an application and are notified of acceptance. The class meets from 9 a.m. - noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for four weeks.

To obtain more information about the classes, contact the Office of Employment and Training, 212 N. Water Street, Henderson, Ky or call 270-826-2746.

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### Snow Applauds New States (continued)

Coverage Tax Credit Program (HCTC), which helps cover the cost of health insurance premiums for certain residents in those states.

(In Kentucky contact the OET offices listed at <http://www.oet.ky.gov/index.asp> or call 502-564-7456 for more information.)

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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